

I'm heartbroken to see MAGFest fall to abusers like this. I'm heartbroken to end 2020 with the bad guys winning. I'm heartbroken to be forced out of an event that I've devoted myself to for so many years. And I'm heartbroken that I'm not the only one.

This morning I got an email from Paul Birtel saying he was banning me from staffing for 2 years for a "code of conduct violation". There is no documentation of what the violation is. STOPS, the group responsible for managing staffers, was not informed or consulted.

Much worse than process violations, though, is Paul's attempts to silence me. From his email:

"I'd like to offer you the opportunity to sign a document (Separation and Release of Claims Acknowledgement) which would allow you to re-register as a volunteer two years from the date signed and allow you to attend events immediately. I will be sending that document through "HelloSign" following this. If not signed within the next two days you would be banned from staffing indefinitely (for a minimum of 3 years, pending the Executive Director deciding you are permitted to re-register as staff) and banned from attending any events for at least two years. Any breaches of the requests in the document before it is signed will void the offer."

I'm truly speechless over this. I have seen many, many mismanaged events, but I have never seen an Executive Director (a full-time, paid, supposed professional no less) resort to this kind of boldfaced threats and silencing. There is no clearer message Paul Birtel could possibly send to show the kind of "leader" he is.

I know we're all exhausted but I pray those of you who remain at MAGFest have the energy to stand up for what's right. To stand up for what MAGFest can be.

Paul Birtel is not MAGFest.

Eli is not MAGFest.

Jack is not MAGFest.

Joel is not MAGFest.

We are more MAGFest than they could ever hope to be. Let's show them.

*I can be contacted on Discord at Shir#8673.*